

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [brian.j.bader@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.j.bader@usace.army.mil)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); Jacquelyn Young; Owens Rock (CAO); Miller, Gary; (b) (6); [sjones@galvbay.org](mailto:sjones@galvbay.org); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Permit Application No. SWG-2015-00855  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016 11:26:16 AM

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Brian

I have serious questions and concerns with the permit application I received in the mail about a proposed barge terminal dredging operation on the San Jacinto River. With the close proximity to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits I question the safety of having more barge traffic in the area of the pits. The US Army Corps of Engineers *Evaluation of the San Jacinto Waste Pits Feasibility Study Remediation* Alternatives shows the chance of barge strikes if the pits are left in place and with an increase in barge traffic the greater the very real risks become. There have been several problems with the cap already and any increase in traffic will only cause more chance of putting public safety at risk.

Another concern is the spoil they remove. How will it be tested for Dioxin or other toxic chemicals? If Dioxin is in the ground on dry land how much of it is in the river sediment? Shouldn't there be testing before this permit is even considered? Then this dirt is going to be piled up along side River Rd, where will the run off go? If the dirt is contaminated who will be responsible for the remediation of the spoil? If the spoil is allowed to be placed on the land along side of River Rd and we have a flood event who will be responsible for containing the spoil so it is not released all over the neighborhood? If it is released all over the area and it does prove to be contaminated do the companies doing the work or owning the land the work is on have the financial resources to remediate the contamination? Has all this work been brought to the attention of the Harris County Flood Control District? I know that if I pile loads of dirt on my property I will get a ticket and have to remove it because of the impeding the flow of water. This should be the same with any company. If I or any of my neighbors can't pile dirt up because it will impede the flow of water, companies should be held to the same standard.

How will the dredging be performed? Clam shell buckets? Suction dredges? How will the sediment be kept from spreading in the river flow? Will it release contaminants to flow into the bay complex? The sloppy work done to install the cap on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits put out a plume of sediment into the river. Will this be repeated in this dredging operation? In the matter of public safety, there are just so many questions about this being performed without further testing of the dredge area and without explaining how the work will be performed.

As far as endangered and threatened species, I know for a fact Bald Eagles and Osprey catch and eat fish from the area of the proposed project. How will this affect the fish that they eat? How can the dredging project ensure that the endangered and threatened species will not have an increased chance of consuming contaminated fish?

If this terminal is allowed, how will the public be guaranteed the barges will be secured and not pose a safety hazard to the public in the event of a flooding event? How much will the additional barges increase upstream flooding? What happens when there is a problem with cargo of the barges during a flooding event? Do the companies have the financial resources to take care of any environmental or property damage? As we have learned with the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, when there is a problem it can take years for the government to force a remedy. I sure would hate for something to happen and the public is put one more time in harms way. I think many of the local residents will have the same concerns I do and maybe there should be serious consideration to not allowing this project.

These are some of the questions those living nearest the proposed project site would like answers to. I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)